

Private.

Boston Feb. 5. 1866.

William Lloyd Garrison Esq.

Dear Sir,

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I trust you will excuse me if I should trespass upon your time somewhat in explanation of my greeting upon the platform at the Music Hall, the other evening at Gen. Howard's lecture. — I once had the pleasure of boarding with yourself and friend Whittier, at the Rev. W^r. Collier's in Federal Street — and upon an invitation from yourself visited Newburyport the fourth of July 1828 (?) and attended a celebration there. There were two gatherings — you reading the Declaration of Independence in one, and Caleb Cushing in the other. I afterwards saw you at Remington, Vermont, at the time you was connected with the "Journal of the Times" — a very spirited sheet, by the way — and my letters were sometimes printed in that paper. After this I resided at S. Johnsbury (which place I have noticed as the scene of one of your lectures) for more than twenty years, as Head Clerk to the Mess^rs. Hibanks, manufacturers of the celebrated scales, bearing their names — most of the time under the same roof, and in the same room with Gov. Hibanks — recently deceased. About ten years ago I removed to this city, and for several years was connected with the firm of Covel, Knapp & C. importers of Hardware 39 Pearl Street. Mr. Covel has also passed away. My eldest son is a graduate of Amherst College, where he occupied the same room as Henry Ward Beecher was educated for business, and is now Corresponding Clerk in a large mercantile house in this city. My other son is a graduate of Harvard — having entered from

the Latin School - where he had the Valedictory - and is now a teacher in the same institution. My daughter is a teacher in the Normal School for young ladies. My children, I may be allowed to say, have been somewhat acquainted with yours; but owing to a knowledge of the fact that your engagements must naturally absorb all your time, I have forebore to make myself known to you - tho' I have kept up an acquaintance with Whittier and Jacob Stone, Clerk of the Ocean Bank at Newburyport having seen the former at the Marlboro' Hotel, within a year or two, and the latter, with his daughter, visited us in Vermont.

I have ever been, strictly speaking, a private citizen, save that the voters of the beautiful town of St. Johnsbury elected me as their representative in the Legislature, and you will excuse me if I add, as a mark of their esteem (in a measure), they doubled my majority the second year, making it the largest in the state. The above will no doubt explain to you how I could not resist the temptation, in this changing scene, to greet somewhat unceremoniously, a companion and associate of my early days, tho' of course you will understand that I appreciate the value of your time at the present crisis of affairs. Hoping that we may witness during the evening of our day, the full regeneration of our country from the scourge of Slavery, I remain with great respect, Yours truly,

Abram Knapp